

listen to people on both sides of the argument, and decide exactly what you think is right to do. And then, whatever she decides I'll be for.

### **Kosovo**

**Q.** Mr. President, if it appears that the Serbs—they have to be sanctioned because they refuse the presence of NATO troops in Kosovo, have you the assurance that the Kosovo Liberation Army will renounce its demands on independence?

**President Chirac.** Well, as I said before, the pressure that we are exerting, legitimately, especially we're exercising on both parties, on both sides. And we replied to a question on Serbia because the question was on Serbia, but let's be perfectly clear: A lot will depend on the personal position adopted by Mr. Milosevic.

But it goes without saying that if the failure, the breakdown, was caused by the Kosovars, their responsibility, sanctions of a different kind, probably, but very firm sanctions would be applied against them. We haven't—there's no choice. I mean, we don't have to choose. We want peace; that's all.

**President Clinton.** First of all, I can entirely support what President Chirac said. But if I could just emphasize that the agreement requires that they accept autonomy, at least for 3 years and sets in motion a 3-year process to resolve all these outstanding questions. Three years would give us time to stop the killing, cool the tempers. And it would also give time for the Serbs to argue that if they return to the original constitutional intent, that is, to have genuine autonomy for Kosovo, as Kosovo once enjoyed—that that would be the best thing for them, economically and politically. And people would have a chance to see and feel those things.

Right now—after all that's gone on and all the people that have died and all the bloody fighting and all the incredibly vicious things that have been said, you know, we just need a timeout here. We need a process within which we can get the security forces out, as Mr. Milosevic said he would do, before—and build some internal institutions within Kosovo capable of functioning, and then see how it goes. I think that's the most important thing.

And so, yes, to go back to what President Chirac said, yes, both sides have responsibility. Their responsibility would be to acknowledge that that is the deal for the next 3 years, during which time we resolve the long-term, permanent questions.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President's 168th news conference began at 3:44 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Slobodan Milosevic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro); Christopher Hill, U.S. Ambassador to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; and President Boris Yeltsin of Russia. President Chirac spoke in French, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

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## **Digest of Other White House Announcements**

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

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### **February 14**

In the afternoon, the President and Hillary Clinton traveled to Merida, Mexico, where they toured the Governor's Palace with President Ernesto Zedillo of Mexico and his wife, Nilda.

### **February 15**

In the morning, the President toured the grounds of the Hacienda Temozon with President Zedillo. In the evening, the President and Hillary Clinton returned to Washington, DC.

### **February 16**

The President announced his intention to appoint Gregory L. Craig to the President's Export Council.

The White House announced that the President proposed \$956 million in disaster assistance for Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and other Caribbean nations struck

by Hurricanes Mitch and Georges in the fall of 1998.

### **February 17**

The President declared a major disaster in Wyoming and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by a severe winter storm on October 5–9, 1998.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Tucson, AZ, and San Francisco and Los Angeles, CA, on February 25–March 2, and to Arkansas and Texas on March 12–14.

### **February 18**

In the morning, the President traveled to Dover, NH, and in the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President named Maurice Goldhaber and Michael E. Phelps as the winners of the Enrico Fermi Award, given for a lifetime of achievement in the field of nuclear energy.

### **February 19**

In the evening, at a ceremony in the Roosevelt Room, the President granted a posthumous pardon to Lt. Henry O. Flipper, USA. Later the President attended a reception celebrating the 90th anniversary of the NAACP in the Great Hall at the National Museum of Women in the Arts.

The President announced his intention to appoint Valerie J. Bradley, Joyce A. Keller, John F. Kennedy, Jr., K. Charlie Lakin, T.J. Monroe, Elizabeth C. Pittinger, Michael L. Remus, Jacquelyn B. Victorian, Barbara Y. Wheeler, and Sheryl White-Scott as members of the President's Committee on Mental Retardation. Ms. Bradley will continue to serve as Chair.

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## **Nominations Submitted to the Senate**

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NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

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## **Checklist of White House Press Releases**

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The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

### **Released February 15**

Transcript of a press briefing by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Attorney General Janet Reno, National Security Adviser Sandy Berger, Office of National Drug Control Policy Director Barry McCaffrey, and National Economic Council Deputy Director Lael Brainard on the President's visit to Mexico

Fact sheet: U.S. Support for Fire Prevention and Restoration Through the Mexico Nature Conservation Fund

Fact sheet: U.S.-Mexico Counterdrug Cooperation: Binational Performance Measures of Effectiveness

Fact sheet: U.S.-Mexico Economic Cooperation: New Financing Agreement To Support U.S. Exports to Mexico

Fact sheet: U.S.-Mexico Cooperation in Law Enforcement

Fact sheet: U.S.-Mexico Cooperation Against Border Violence

Fact sheet: U.S.-Mexico Cooperation on Tuberculosis Control

Fact sheet: U.S.-Mexico Civil Aviation Agreement

### **Released February 16**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Joe Lockhart

Transcript of remarks by the First Lady and Tipper Gore on debt relief to Central American countries affected by Hurricane Mitch

Transcript of a press briefing by Assistant Secretary of State Peter Romero; Ambassador Wendy Sherman, Counselor of the State Department; Assistant Director of Aid for Latin America and the Caribbean Mark Schneider; and Office of Management and Budget Executive Associate Director Josh